



Department of Veterans Affairs

Cave Hill National Cemetery
701 Baxter Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204

Media Advisory

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pat Lovett, Director

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November 18, 2011

VA to Dedicate Replacement 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument at Cave Hill National Cemetery

- What:** The Department of Veterans Affairs will hold a dedication and unveiling ceremony for a newly created replacement for the 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument, commonly known as the Bloedner Monument.
- Who:** Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Steve L. Muro
Pat Lovett, Cave Hill National Cemetery Director
- When:** Friday, December 16, 2011, at noon.
- Where:** Cave Hill National Cemetery
701 Baxter Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204
- Directions:** **From the South:** From Louisville Standiford Field Airport or South: Take Interstate 65 North to Broadway (East) exit. Turn right at Broadway and head east to Baxter Avenue. Cemetery entrance is located at the intersection of Broadway and Baxter Avenue. Cemetery is located in the confines of the Cave Hill Cemetery. **From the North:** Take Interstate 65 South to Jefferson Street exit. Take Jefferson Street west 1 block to 1st Street. Turn left at 1st Street and take 1st Street south to Broadway. Turn left at Broadway and head east to Baxter Avenue. **From the West:** Take Interstate 64 East to Grinstead Drive exit and turn right at Grinstead Drive. Follow Grinstead Drive to the Grinstead Drive entrance to the cemetery on the right. **From the East:** Take Interstate 64 West to Grinstead Drive exit and turn left at Grinstead Drive. Follow Grinstead Drive to the Grinstead Drive entrance on the right. Cemetery is located in the confines of Cave Hill Cemetery.
- Contact:** Pat Lovett, Cave Hill National Cemetery Director
(859) 885-5727
- Background:** NCA installed a replacement 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument, commonly known as the Bloedner Monument, in Cave Hill National

Cemetery in Louisville, Ky., on Sept. 22, 2011. The replacement monument was created by Nicholas Benson, a third generation American stone carver from Newport, R.I.

NCA moved the original Bloedner Monument to its new home at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville on Aug. 18, 2010, after extensive renovation.

The original 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument was carved in January 1862 after the Battle of Rowlett's Station in Munfordville, Ky. It is believed to be the oldest existing Civil War monument. Pvt. August Bloedner carved the monument to mark the interments of fellow soldiers in the 32nd Indiana Infantry, a regiment entirely comprised of German-Americans who fell in the battle. It was originally installed on the battlefield. In 1867, the Bloedner Monument was moved to Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville, along with the remains of 11 of the 13 soldiers whose names are inscribed on the monument. After being reinterred in the cemetery, the 11 soldiers received individual markers, causing the carving to shift in meaning from a headstone marking the remains of multiple soldiers, to a monument commemorating their sacrifice.

By the 1950s, the monument was beginning to spall, due in part from moisture rising up from the ground through the stone. By the early 2000s, approximately 50 percent of the inscription was lost. To preserve what was left of the monument, on Dec. 17, 2008 (the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Rowlett's Station), NCA removed it to an indoor storage facility at the University of Louisville, where it received professional conservation.